

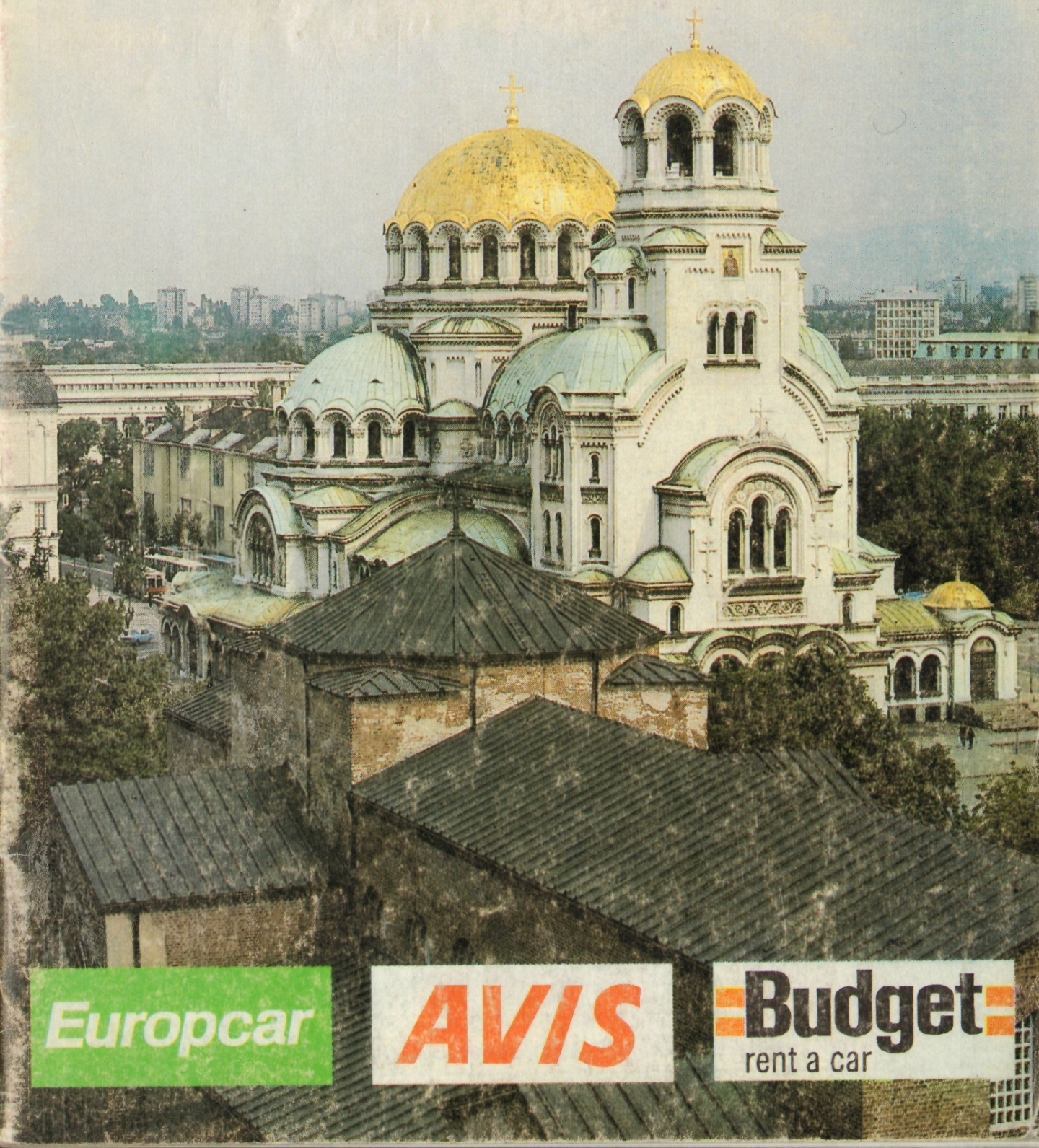
Maps · Shops · Sights · Museums · Dining · Galleries · Events

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# SOFIA

## *Quick Guide*

SPRING 1993



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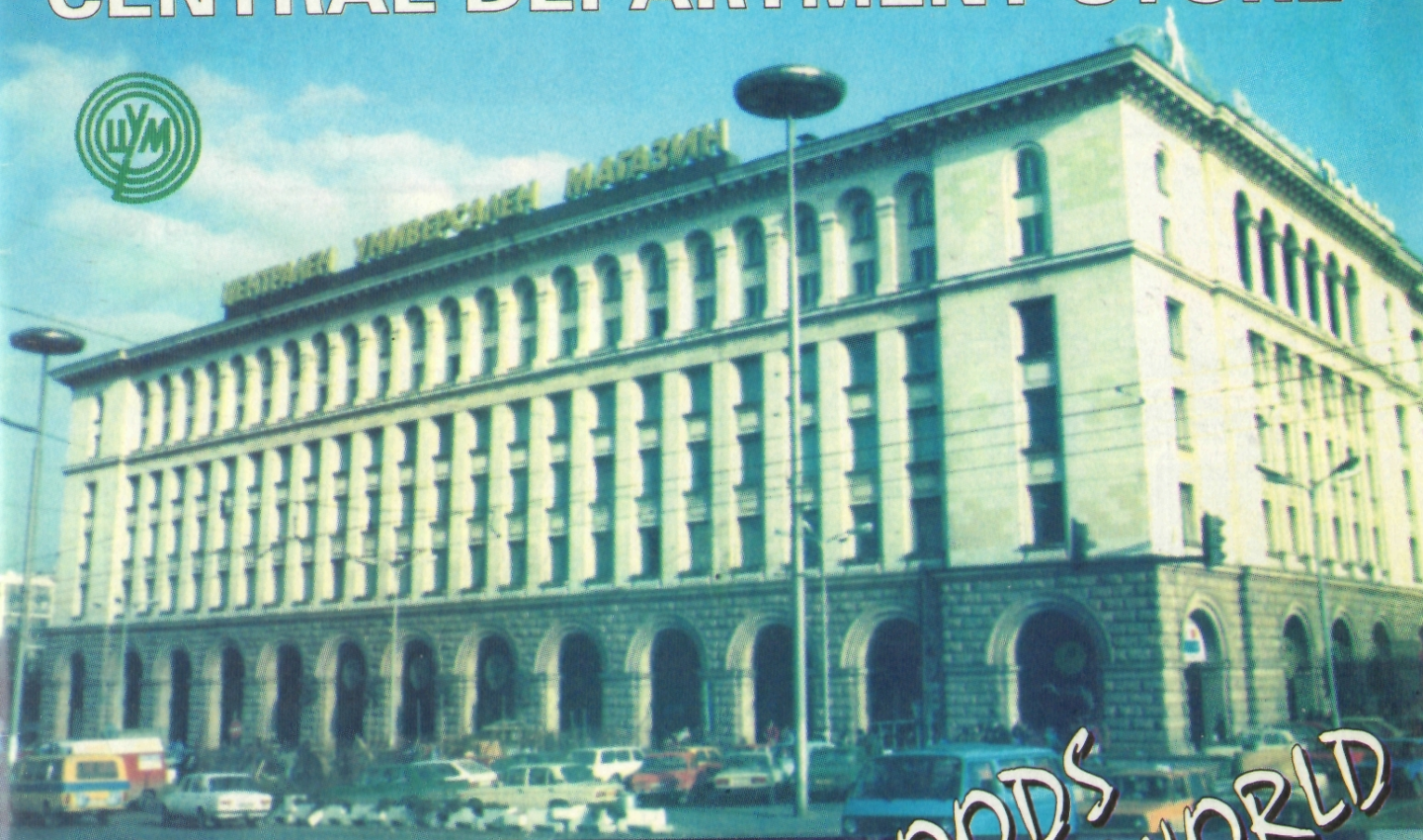
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## ON THE COVER

### Alexander Nevski Cathedral



### Alexander Nevski Memorial Church

The Alexander Nevski Memorial Church was built between 1904 and 1912, and dominates in the centre of Sofia, with its impressive structure (height 53 m; 700 sq. m gold-plated cubes, 12 bells which have the combined weight of 30 tons).

The design was created by the Russian architect A.H.Pomerancev. This concept is close to the late Byzantine type of dome churches, but has some influence by the specific Russian-church architecture. Distinguished Bulgarian and Russian artists created the beautiful frescoes and icons. Among them were: I.Mrkvichka, A.Mitov, T.Todorov, S.Ivanov, N.A.Bruny, V.Savinsky, D.Kiplik, A.Korin and others.

The interior decoration includes high quality coloured marble, Brazilian onyx and alabaster, with their smooth surface, or decorated with embossed ornaments and patterns. The monumental impact of the exterior and the interior makes this memorial church a remarkable creation of the 20<sup>th</sup> century art.

Underneath the temple there is a crypt,

# SOFIA

## Quick Guide

Spring 1993

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which was originally built as a tomb for the remains of notable clergymen. Since 1965 the crypt is a museum of Bulgarian icons. The exposition includes the most representative icons created in our lands for thousands of years - from the 9<sup>th</sup> century to the 19<sup>th</sup> century.

Among the most famous exhibits are: the icon of St.Nicholas of Nessebar from the end of the 12<sup>th</sup> century and the beginning of the 13<sup>th</sup> century; the mosaic icon of The Virgin Othigitria from the end of the 13<sup>th</sup> century; the Synaxis of the Archangels Michael and Gabriel from the Bachkovo Monastery, 14<sup>th</sup> century and many other.

The crypt is open every day, except Tuesday, from 10,30am to 6,30pm. Free admission: Sunday. □





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## General Information

### Important numbers

In Sofia there is no need to dial an area code for local calls. When using the street phones you need a coin of 20 stotinky.

**For general telephone information dial 144**

**For international operator service dial 0123**

### Emergencies

Medical Emergency	150
Fire	160
Police	166
Traffic Police	165
Road Help	146

### Travel and Transportation

#### Sofia Airport

Domestic flights	72 24 14
International flights	45 11 13
Tickets	88 49 19

Balkan Airlines at Sofia Airport	71 201
Jes Air	80 10 32; 39 02 34

East West European Air Services	46 70 32
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#### Trains

Central Railway Station Sofia	3 11 11
Sofia North	38 29 28
Rail tickets	87 02 22
Domestic	87 57 42
International	870777 (info) 87 59 35

#### Bus Stations

North	38 31 91
West	55 30 47
East	45 30 14
South	72 00 63
International	52 50 04

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AVIS RENT A CAR	87 34 12
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BUDGET CAR	70 61 48

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Interhotels	87 39 01
Balkantourist	43 331
Committee for Tourism	84 131
Tourist Information and Reservations,	
State Travel Company	88 01 39
Chamber of Commerce	87 26 31

### Financial Services

Bulgarian National Bank	85 51 /886
Bulgarian Foreign Trade Bank	84 91

### Postal / Courier Services

Intime Courier	65 02 77
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<u>Sofia</u>	INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT Telephone: 2-738023 VITOSHA HOTEL Telephone: 2-684149 SHERATON HOTEL Telephone: 2-874123
<u>Varna</u>	INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT Telephone: 52-440793 CHERNO MORE HOTEL Telephone: 52-236118 GRAND HOTEL VARNA Telephone: 52-861491
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## Getting Around

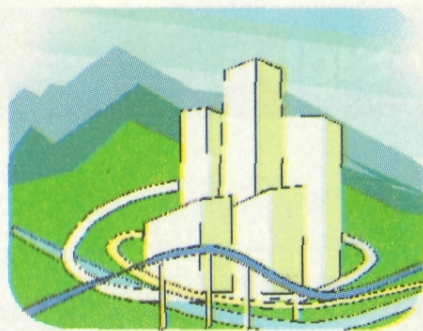
Sofia is a relatively big city, but most of its points of interest, hotels and services are located in its central area. It is not very easy to get around the city, so carrying a map is a good idea. In the city center walking is recommended, because traffic is heavy and parking is scarce.

### Buses

Buses are the most popular public transportation in Sofia. The bus fare is 1.50 lv. You need to buy a ticket prior to taking the bus and perforate it when you get on. Bus route's are posted at most bus stations.

### Tramway and Trolley-bus

When using the tramway and trolley-bus, you need the same ticket as for the bus. It's



usually much faster and more pleasant to travel by tramway. There is no subway in operation at this time. The Sofia Subway is still in construction.

### Taxis

There are quite a lot of different types of taxis driving around Sofia. Although the type of taxi-cars range from Mercedes to Trabant, the fare is the same, about 3 lv. per kilometer. There is a 10 percent increase after 10 P.M.

You can call a cab by phone. The number is 142. They usually come in 10-15 minutes.

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## City Sights

### Churches

#### Alexander Nevski Memorial Church

The Alexander Nevski Memorial Church is a unique piece of architecture, one of the finest on the Balkans. It was built between 1904 and 1912 on drafts by Russian architect Prof.A.N.Pomerantzev in a neo-Byzantine style. Craftsmen and artists from six countries worked on the five-aisle church and created real masterpieces of icons, frescoes, murals and huge chandeliers. The cathedral stands at 25 m high, occupying 3170 sq.m façade of white stone and strikes with its monumental graduation of arches, semi-domes and domes. Some are copperleaf plated, others are gold-plated.

The interior design, made of Italian marble, Egyptian alabaster, Brazilian onyx, gold, mosaics embodies the spirit of the finest Eastern Orthodox traditions.

One of the richest collections of icons in Bulgaria can be seen in the Crypt, located in the Memorial Church.

#### St. Sofia Church

The St. Sofia Church was built in the sixth century, during the reign of Justinian. It is a triple-nave cross basilica with a dome. All of its mosaic details have survived intact through the years. In the 14th century this unique building gave the city its name.

#### St. George Rotonda and ruins

This notable brick building was completed in the late fourth century. Its beautiful frescoes and original paintings have been finely preserved.



#### St. Petka Samardjiiska

The St.Petka Church is one of the few Medieval churches preserved in the city. It was built in the late fourteenth century and features original murals and icons. In order not to irritate the Ottoman conquerors it was deliberately made barely recognisable as a church. The building is small, located in the city-center underpass, rising above the street level.

#### The Church of St. Nedelya

Built in medieval times and known as the Church of the Blessed Sveti Kral. The current building was reconstructed after 1925 when it was almost completely destroyed by a bomb explosion.

#### The main Synagogue

Built between 1905 and 1909 in a Moorish style. The interior walls are covered with decorative paintings of floral and geometrical patterns.

#### The St. Nicholas Russian Church

It was built in 1913 at the behest of a Russian tsarist diplomat, in the tradition of the decorative Moscow architectural style with five gold-plated domes. The church was designed by the Russian architect Preobrazhensky and was dedicated to St.Nicholas the Blessed. The interior features large wall paintings.



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TLX: 23957

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8 Pozitano Str., tel: 81 38 40, 81 47 70

**AIRPORT (Arrivals):**

tel: 72 01 57, 793 21 ext. 27 66





## ***Significant Historical and Cultural Buildings***

### **National Assembly**

The Bulgarian Parliament building was built in 1884 and designed by Vienna architect Konstantin Ivanovich in a Renaissance style.

### **The St. Kliment Ohridski Sofia University**

The funds to build the University were donated by the brothers Evlogi and Hristo Georgiev. Their sculptures stand at the main entrance. This beautiful building was completed in 1931 and currently represents the largest center for higher education in Bulgaria.

### **St. Cyril and St. Methodius National Library**

This large building with stylish façade was completed in 1953. It is the biggest book depository in the country.

The library was named after the creators of the Bulgarian alphabet.

### **The Court House**

Built in 1940 in the classical style, the Court House is one of the most impressive buildings in Sofia. Currently some of the exhibits of the National History Museum are on display in part of the building.

### **The Ivan Vazov National Theatre**

Built in the neoclassical style it is a complex architectural compound. Named after the patriarch of Bulgarian literature, the poet Ivan Vazov (1850-1921).

### **The National Palace of Culture**

Opened in 1981 it is the new symbol of Sofia. This cultural center is the largest multi-purpose complex in South-Eastern Europe. It reflects the lively intellectual life in Bulgaria and represents a meeting place of international significance.



## Museums

### National Museum of History

Sofia 1000, 2 Vitosha Blvd.  
Information: tel:88 41 60  
Public relations: tel:88 49 37

Working hours:  
Monday through Friday  
from 9.30 AM to 5.15 PM  
Closed: Saturday, Sunday

The National Museum of History is the most important, unique treasure house of the creative spirit of the Bulgarian people during its 14 centuries history and of the civilizations, which flourished on the Bulgarian lands - Prahistoric, Thracian, Hellenistic, Roman, Byzantine, Islamic...

In its halls are exhibited the famous Thracian and Old Bulgarian Golden and Silver treasures, rich collections of ancient plastic art, icons, religious and sacred vessels, coins, antique armoury and manuscripts, pottery, historical documents and folk art.

### The National Art Gallery and the Ethnography Museum

Sofia, 6 Moskovska St.  
tel: 88 51 17, tel: 88 35 59

Initially this was built as Turkish army quarters and after the Liberation from Osman rule it was repaired and transformed into the Royal Palace. At the moment it holds the

National Art Gallery and the Ethnography Museum.

The National Art Gallery has a rich collection of paintings, sculptures and drawings by Bulgarian artists from the Renaissance in Bulgaria (1762-1877) to the present as well as foreign art.

The Ethnography Museum was founded 80 years ago. Its valuable collection reflects the culture, art, tradition and customs of the people in these lands.

### The National Natural Science Museum

Sofia, 1 Ruski Blvd.  
tel: 88 51 15 /706

This National Museum is over a century old. Its collection is among the richest in Europe. On display are exceptionally valuable animal species and minerals.

### The Land and People National Museum

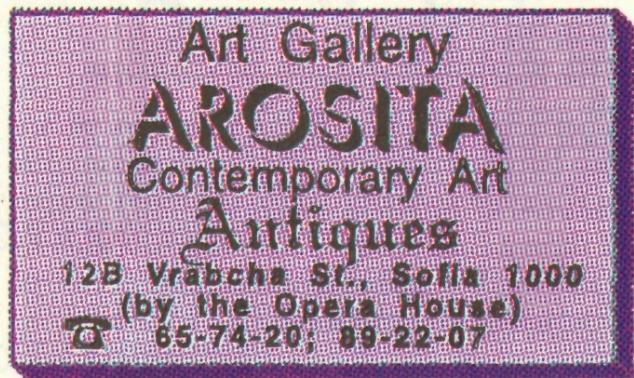
1421 Sofia, 2 Cherni Vrah Blvd.,  
tel: 65 66 39

This Museum is relatively new, it opened in 1987. An innovating architectural project transformed an old industrial building into a contemporary museum. It is a cultural, scientific and educational center on minerals and raw materials. This is truly the world of inanimate nature.

### The Archeology Museum

Sofia, 2 Saborna St.  
tel: 88 24 05

This Museum is housed in the old Buyuk Mosque built in the 15th century. It was founded over a hundred years ago and has an exceptionally rich collection of ancient and medieval art in the Bulgarian lands.





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**Galleries**

**Art Gallery of the Union of  
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1040 Sofia, 6 Shipka St.  
tel: 44 25 60; 44 61 21

Working hours:  
Monday-Sunday 11AM to 8PM

**Otechestvo Gallery**

Sofia, 18 Vitosha Blvd.  
tel: 83 27 63

Working hours:  
Monday-Friday 10.30AM to 7PM

**National Art Gallery**

Sofia, Kniaz Alexander Batenberg Sq.  
tel: 88 35 59

Working hours:  
Monday-Friday 10AM to 7PM

**Sofia City Art Gallery**

Sofia, 1 Gurko St.  
tel: 87 21 81

Working hours:  
Wednesday-Sunday 10.30 AM to 6.30 PM

***Phiala from the Rogozen Treasure***

It is one of the 165 items, made from gold and silver. 4<sup>th</sup> century B.C. It's on display at the National Museum of History.

**International Foundation "St. St. Kiril and Methodi" Gallery**

Sofia, St. Alexander Nevski Sq.  
tel: 44 61 57

Working hours:

Wednesday-Monday 11AM to 1PM

**ART 36**, 40 Slavianska St., tel: 81 04 43

**ART M**, 7 Tzar Osvoboditel Blvd.

**AKT**, 145 Rakovski St.

**ANNI-CO**, 21 Neofit Rilski St.

**AROSITA**, 12B Vrabcha St.

tel: 65 74 20

**ASEN VASILEV**, 48 Solunska St.

tel: 81 32 50

**VEK**, 30 Alabin St., tel: 89 54 20

**19.90**, 29 Slavianska St.

tel: 88 58 31(225)

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**LOMI**, 78 Rakovski St., tel: 88 32 29

**SAPIO**, 7 Benkovski St., tel: 73 10 39

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5 Vasil Levski St., tel. 88 28 84

Ticket price: 8 - 12 lv.

*The Merchant Of Venice*

William Shakespeare

*Comedy Of Errors*

William Shakespeare

*The Great Schemer*

after Ilf and Petrov

*American Buffalo* David Mamet

*The End Of The Game*

Samuel Beckett

*Black Comedy*

Peter Shaffer

*Christmas Tale*

Carl Orf

*The Janitor*

Harold Pinter

*The Price*

Arthur Miller

*Vassa Zheleznova* Maxim Gorky

*American Therapy*

James Sonders

*The Fireplace*

Margarit Minkov

*Killers*

Stefan Gechev

*Solfeggio For Dogs*

Mihail Velichkov

*Antigona*

Sophokles

*Lorenzaccio*

Alfred de Musset

*Top Girls*

Carol Churchill

*The Last Taperecording*

Samuel Beckett

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### ARMY

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Big stage

*Waiting For Godot*

Samuel Beckett

*Requiem For A Nun*

William Faulkner

*Loulou (Pandora's Box)*

Frank Wedekind

*Wonder*

Ivan Radoev

*The Fox And The Grapes (Aesopus)*

Guilherme Figueiredo

*The Duel*

Ivan Vazov

*Sex, Drugs, Rock&Roll*

Eric Bogosian

*Tales From The Viennese Woods*

Odon von Horvath

*Songs For An Idiot (Topaz)*

Marcel Pagnol

*As You Like It*

William Shakespeare

## MAXIM STAGE CLUB

*The Zoo Story*

Edward Albee

*A Lucky Occurrence*

Slavomir Mrozek

*A Night For Three* Lotte Ingrisch

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*Stabbed In The Back* Robert Toma

*Between Two Chairs* Ray Cuni

*The Lover*

Harold Pinter

*When The Cat Is Out*

Jonni Mortimor and Brian Cook

*The Butcher, Inside The Room*

Karoy Saconi

*Happy Days*

Samuel Beckett

*Guess Where The Gun Is*

Gabor Georgey

*Five Pregnant Plays*

Dario Fo and Franka Rame

*On The Other Side* Stanislav Stratiev

*The Architect Of Babylon And The*

*Emperor Of Assyria*

Fernando Arabal

*Sirano De Bergerac*

Edmon Rostan



## The Arts

### SOFIA NATIONAL OPERA

58 Dondukov Blvd., tel.: 87 70 11  
telex: 23 198

#### February 93:

*ENTFUHRUNG AUS DEM SERAIL* -

Mozart

*SLEEPING BEAUTY* - Ballet -

Tchaikovsky

#### March 93:

*SIMON BOCCANEGRA* - Verdi

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### STATE MUSICAL THEATRE

4 Vasil Levski Blvd., tel. 44 19 79

Ticket price: 8 - 12 lv.

*Rehearsal* - Rock ballet - Bach-Presser

*Amal And The Night Visitors* - Gian Carlo  
Menotti

*Graf In Maritza* - Kalman

*Die Zardashfurstin* - Kalman

*Der Zigeunerbaron* - Strauss

*Die Fledermaus* - Strauss



### NATIONAL PALACE OF CULTURE

Tickets: tel. 80 10 23

#### Symphonic Concerts

New Year concert of Sofia Festival  
Orchestra

Programme: Berlioz, Saint-Saens,  
J. Strauss, Chopin, Petko Staynov,  
January 01; Hall 1

Symphonic concert of Sofia Festival  
Orchestra (dedicated to memory of  
Tchaikovsky)

Programme: Concerto for violin, Fifth  
Symphony of Tchaikovsky,  
January 03; Hall 1

A night of Igor Stravinsky music to mark  
the 110th Anniversary of his birth  
Symphony Orchestra of Bulgarian  
National Radio, March; Hall 1

#### Opera

*The Screw Spinnig Round* - Benjamin  
Britain, March 20; Hall 2

Performances Free Opera Theatre,  
March 22,24,26,28;

#### Ballet

A night of ballet, January 21; Hall 2

#### Chamber Music

Piano concert - Daniela Rahneva,  
January 20; Hall 9

Author concert of the composer Dimiter  
Christov, January 18; Hall 9

Piano concert of Francesco Monopoli  
(Italy), January 22; Hall 9

Cycle of concerts "Young conductors,  
soloists and composers",  
March 10,24; April 7; Hall 7

Concert of Vladimir Tassev - violin,



Violeta Popova - piano, February 4; Hall 9  
Chamber concert to mark the 120th  
Anniversary of S. Rakhmaninov's birth,  
February; Hall 9

Soloists of Macedonian Philharmonic and  
Vassil Atanasov - oboe, Lyubo Stefanov -  
clarinet (two concerts),  
January 26; Hall 9; February 26; Hall 9

### Jazz

Simeon Shterev - flute,  
Lyubomir Denev - piano, January; Hall 9  
Yildiz Ibrahimova and Antony Donchev,  
February; Hall 9

"Beli, Zeleni, Cherveni", March; Hall 9  
Turnovo dixieland with soloist singer  
Ivelina Balcheva, March; Hall 12

### Cinema

Cinema "Lumiere" - demonstration of  
French films given by "GOMON",  
January, February, March; Hall 11

### Theatre

*Sex, Drugs, Rock'n Roll*  
by Eric Bogosian (USA),  
January 5, 9, 15, 22; February; Hall MTI  
*Faces* - experimental theatre show,  
January 14, 21, Hall MTI;  
February, Hall MTI

Musical by Peter Gabriel - Theatre 13,  
March - premiere; Hall 12

*In the silence of the cotton fields*  
by Bernard-Marie Coltes,  
January, February; Hall MTI

*Blues, poetry, music* - on verses by  
Farlingetti and unknown translations of  
Eric Clapton songs, February; Hall 12



**Art Gallery of the Bulgarian Union of Fine Arts.** Individual and group collections of art work. Sale of selected items is possible. 6 Shipka St. ☎ 43 351; 44 61 15

### Exhibitions

*Art-news* - private galleries, theatre groups, orchestras, film producers, publishing houses; February

*Spring Fashion salon*; March 5-31,

Motor Show, March 20-28

International Tourist Exchange  
Holidays '93; February 11-14

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## **Shops**

### **Department Stores**

**Central Department Store**, 2, Maria Luiza Blvd.; tel: 882 741, page 3

**Metrocom**, C.Columbus Blvd., Mladost-4 Borough; tel: 77 40 61, page 5

### **Shops**

**GRAZIA**, 3 Legue St.

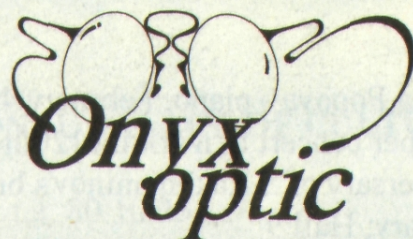
**DIPEX**, 40 Veslez St.; tel: 83 56 61, sportsware

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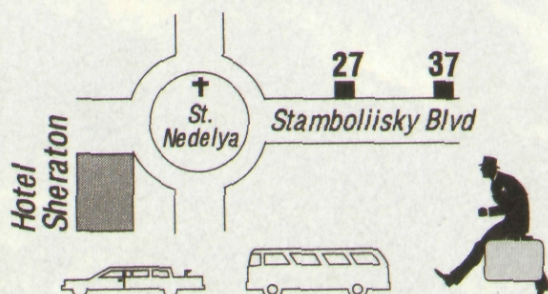
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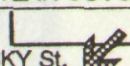


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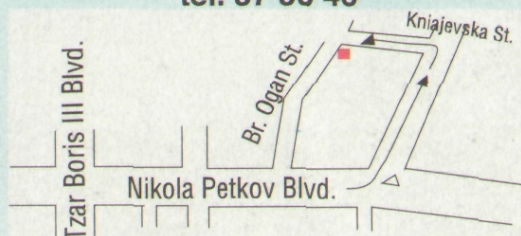
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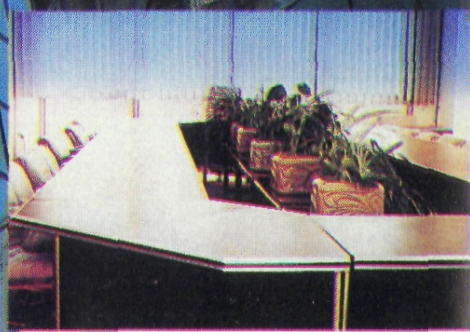
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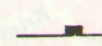




















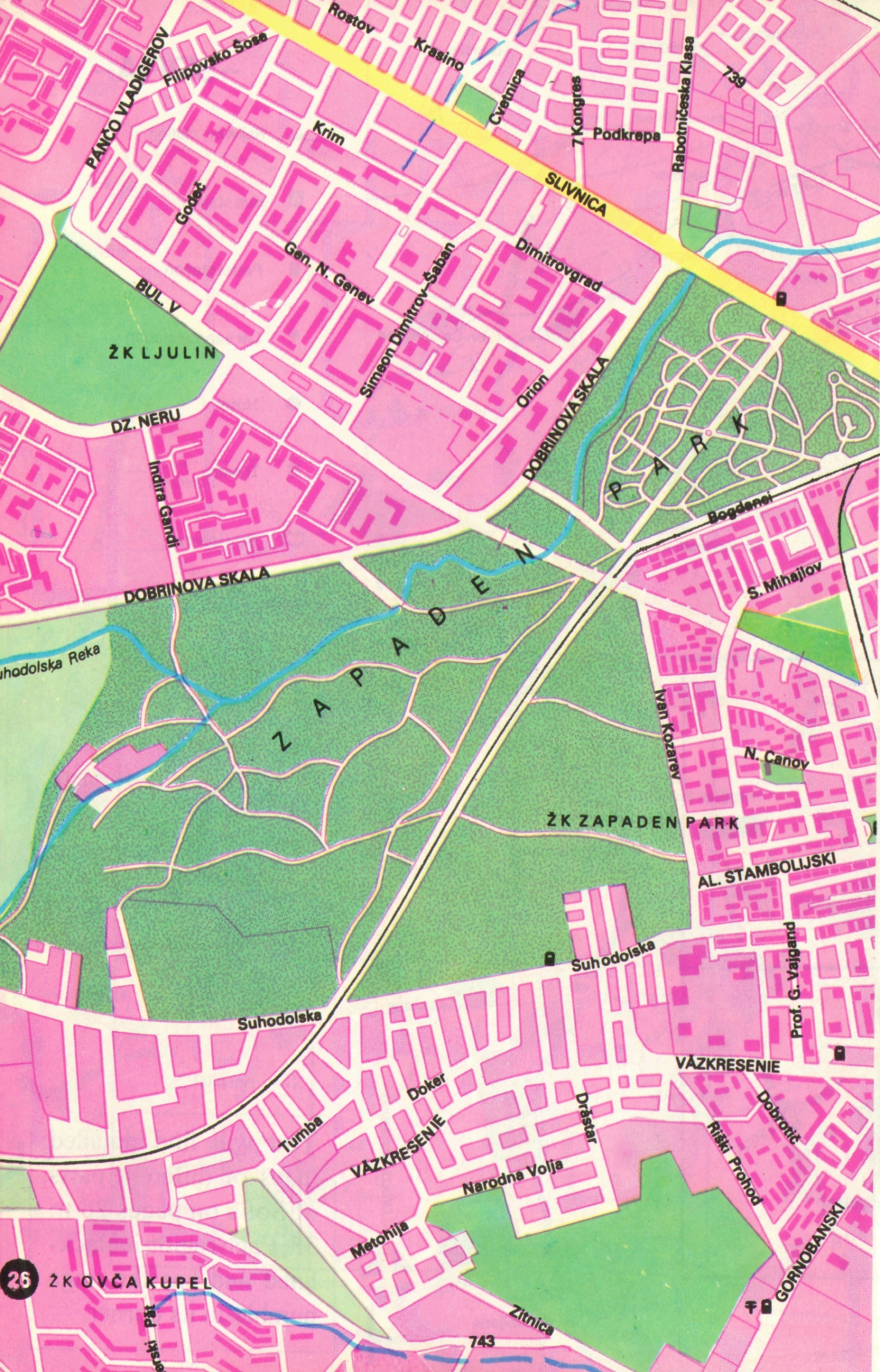


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-  Librari
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You will find detailed maps of different parts of Sofia on pages 26 to 35. Each region is black-lined and has the page number in its corner.





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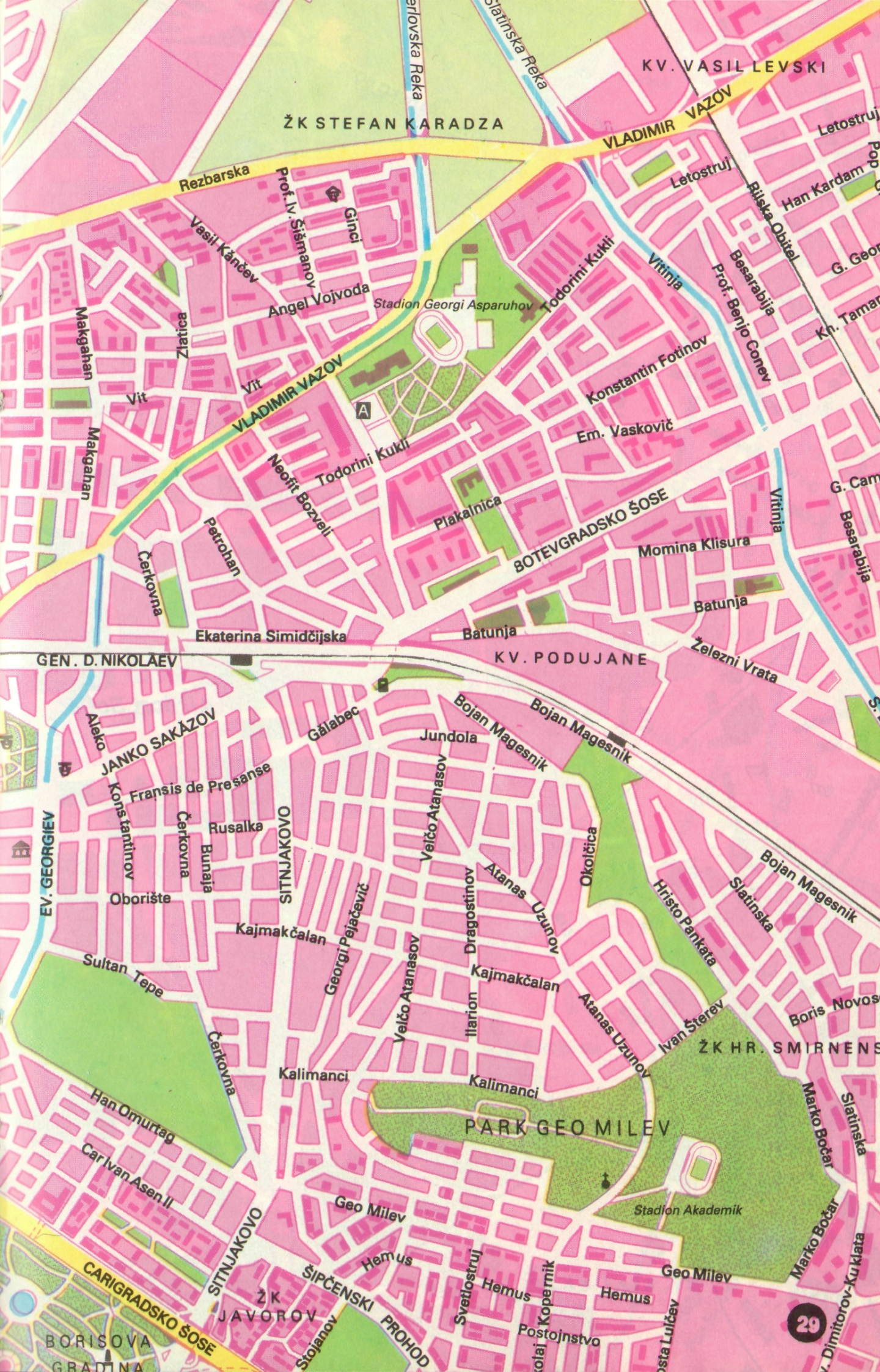
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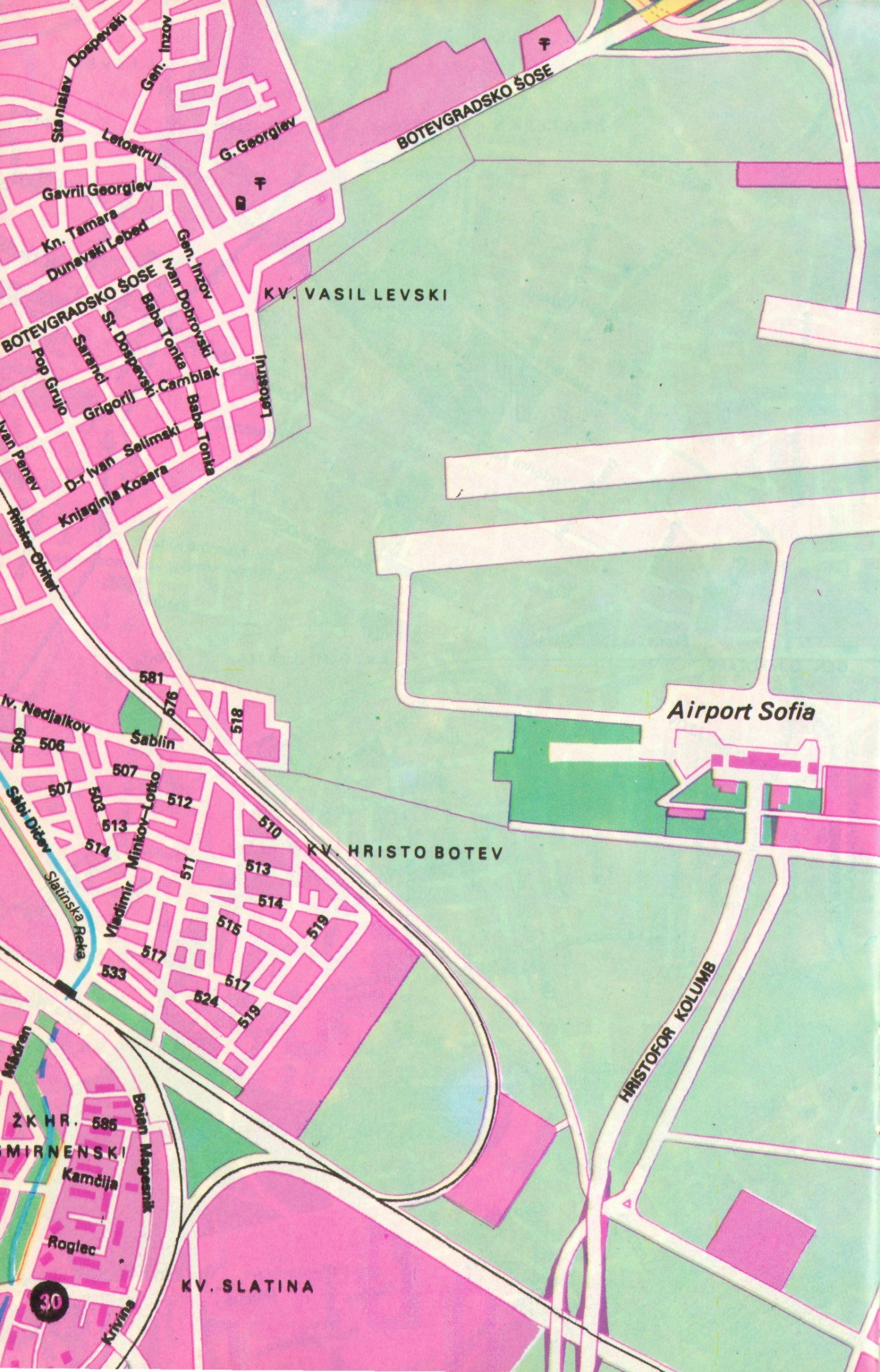








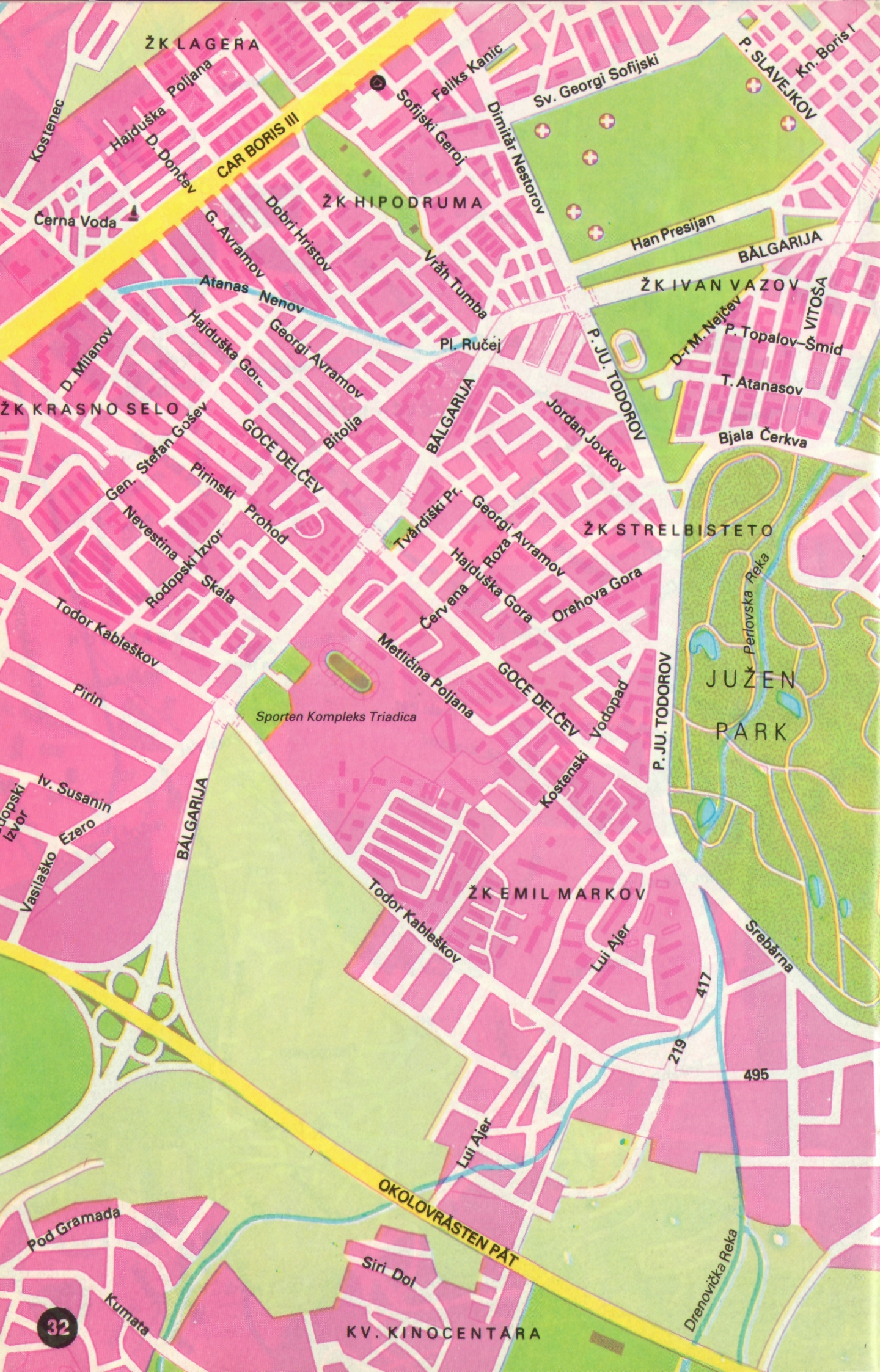












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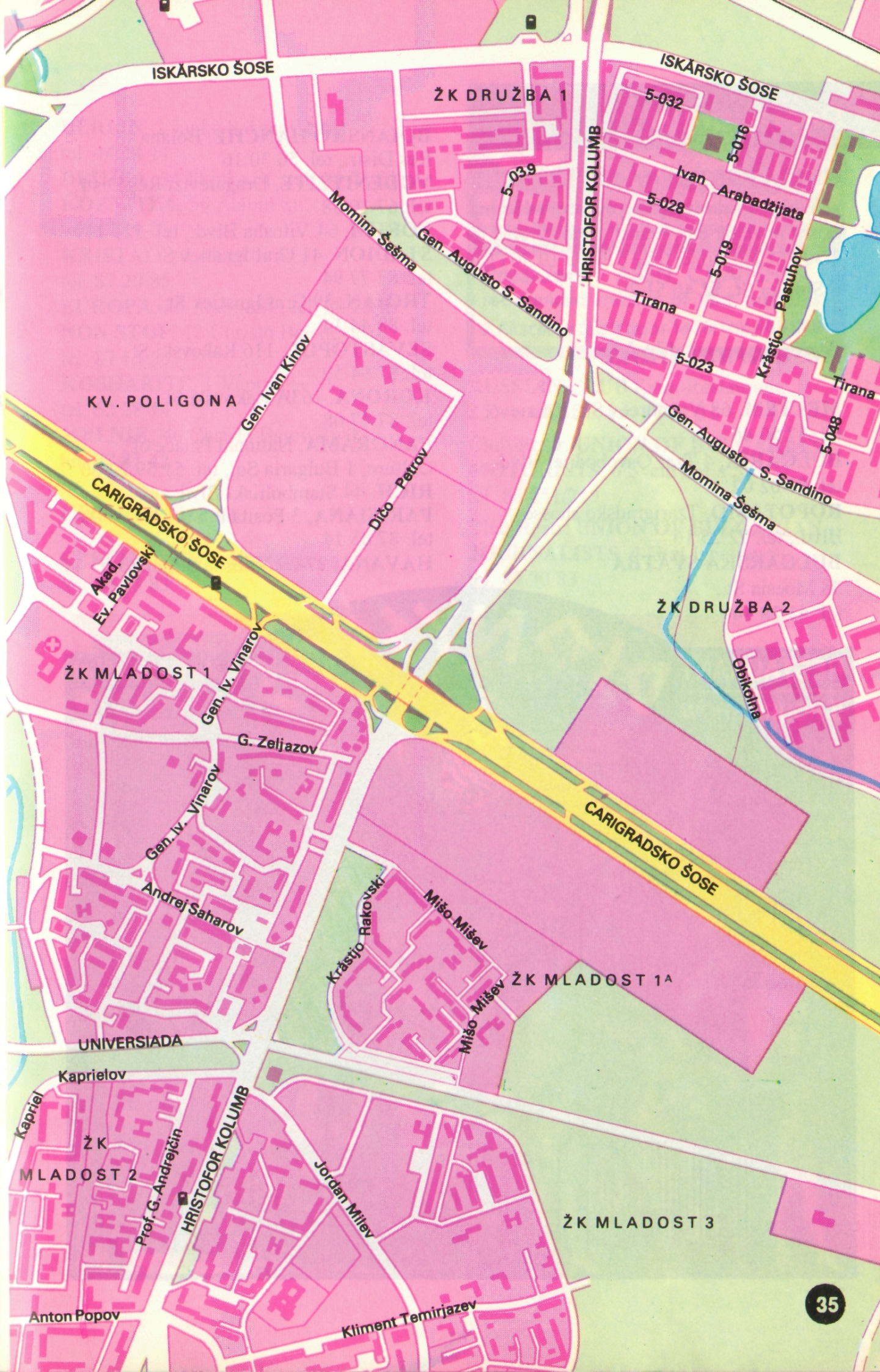
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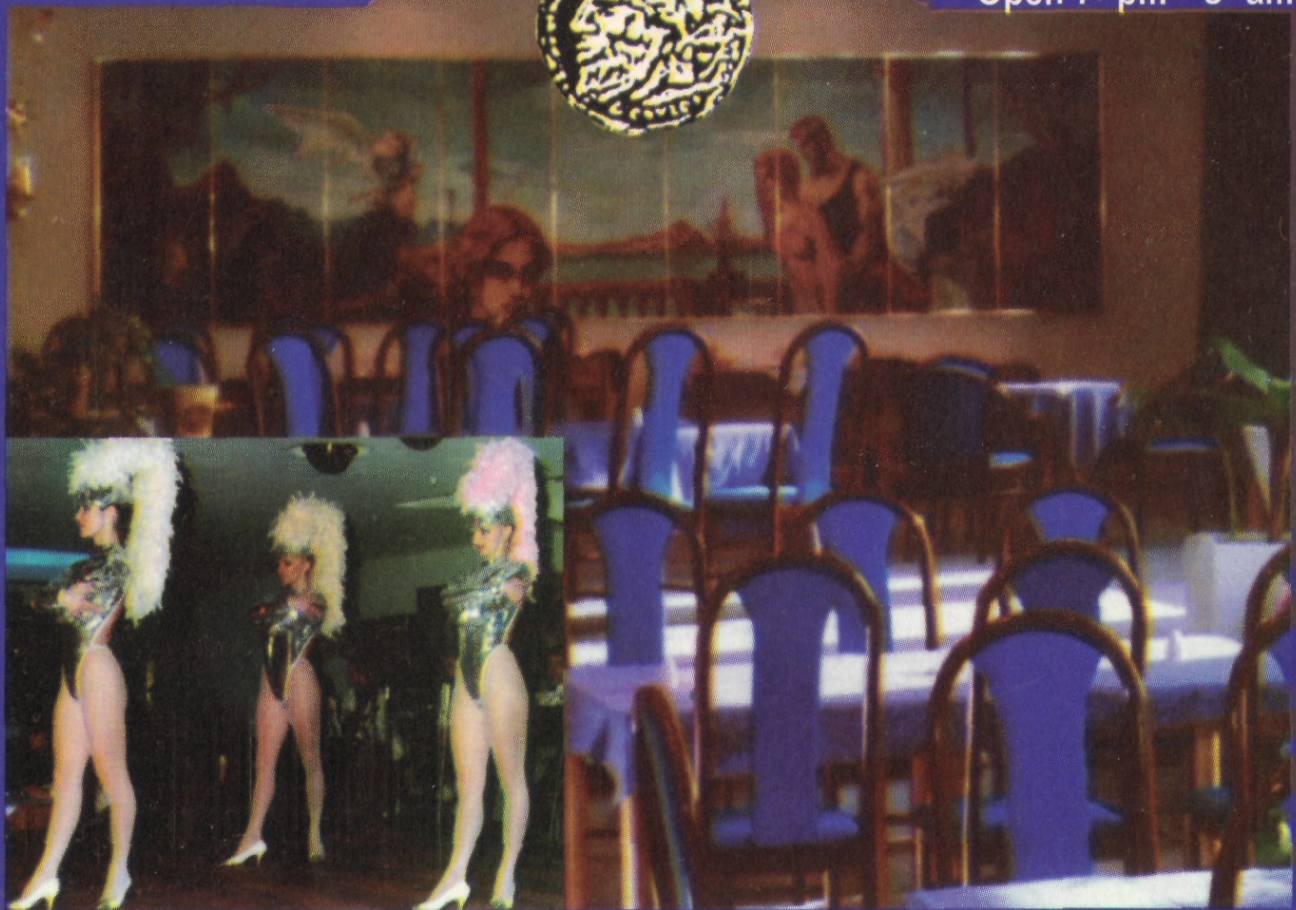
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# INTERHOTEL GRAND HOTEL SOFIA



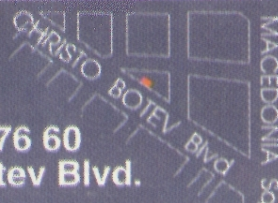
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ITALIAN RESTAURANT  
*Bella*  
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EXPERIENCE ITALY  
IN THE HEART OF SOFIA



bookings  
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# **MIOMIT**

## **INTERNATIONAL TRADE**

**MIOMIT COMPANY**  
**Business activities:**

*wholesale trading  
to and from Russia*

*raw materials, ferrous  
and non-ferrous metals*

*petroleum and petroleum  
products*

*consumer goods*

*washing mashines*

*vacuum cleaners*

*refrigerators*

*electric*

*appliances*

*TV's*

*cellulose  
industry*

*paper*

*wood materials*

*wallpaper*

*automobiles*

*cars*

*light load trucks*

*heavy load trucks*

*machine-tools*

*metal-working*

*machines*

*plastics*

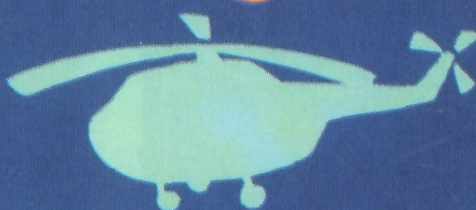
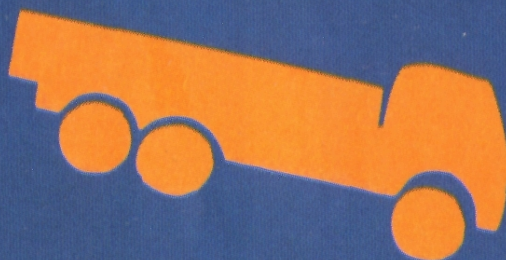
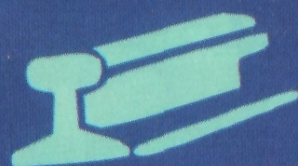
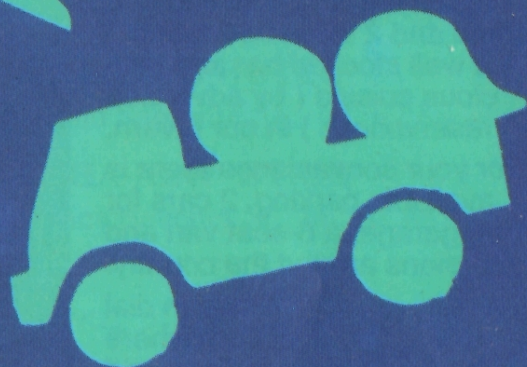
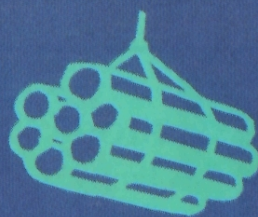
**PRAVETZ -**

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# MIOMIT

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# MAJOR HOTELS IN SOFIA

Aircondition	●	●	●									
Tennis courts	●											
Beauty shop	●			●	●							
Panorama	●			●	●	●		●				
Rent-a-Car	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
Garage	●		●	●								
Parking lot	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●		●	
Currency exchange	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
Telex	●	●	●	●	●	●	●					
Hair dressers	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●			●
Casino	●			●		●						
Conference room	●	●	●	●	●	●				●		
Bowling	●											
Sauna	●			●								
Swimming pool	●			●								
Sports centre	●		●	●								
Shopping	●	●	●	●	●	●	●				●	
Discotheque						●		●				
Snack-bar	●					●						
Coffee shop	●	●		●	●	●	●	●	●			●
Mechana		●			●	●		●				●
Day bar	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
Night bar	●	●		●	●	●		●				
Restaurant	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●		●	●
Double-bed rooms	443	154	596	472	162	326	132	187	126	99	69	60
Single-bed rooms				54	24	34	45	48	4	8	3	14
Apartments	13	34	7	7	2	27	14	10	12	10	3	6
Stories	18	5	16	22	5	18	12	20	5	6	4	6
<div> <div>Services</div> <div> <div>HOTEL NAME PHONE &amp; CATEGORY</div> <div>VITOSHA 6 24 51</div> <div>SHERATON 87 56 41</div> <div>EUROPA 3 12 61</div> <div>RODINA 5 16 31</div> <div>GRAND HOTEL SOFIA 87 88 21</div> <div>PARK HOTEL SOFIA 7 12 61</div> <div>PLISKA 7 12 81</div> <div>HEMUS 6 39 51</div> <div>SERDIKA 44 34 11</div> <div>SLAVIANSKA BESEDA 88 36 91</div> <div>SLAVIA 54 92 51</div> <div>BULGARIA 87 19 77</div> </div> </div>												



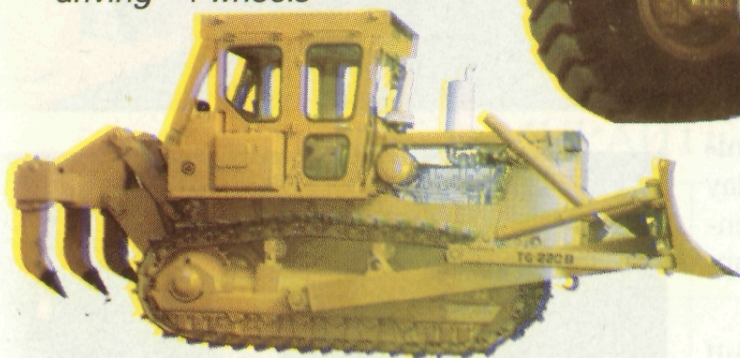
# IF YOU ARE LOOKING FOR RELIABLE, POWERFUL AND STRONG ROAD CONSTRUCTION MACHINES WITH AN EXCELLENT PRICE/PERFORMANCE YOU ALREADY GOT THE ADDRESS:



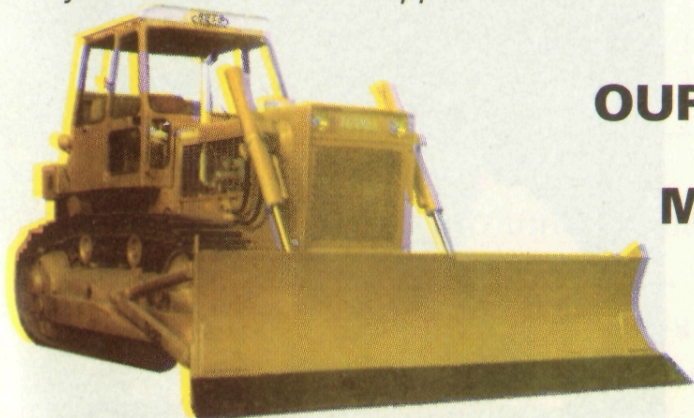
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**CRAWLER TRACTOR TG-220B** with  
hydraulic bulldozer and ripper attachment



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FOR COOPERATIVE  
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OUR MODERN TECHNOLOGY  
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MAKE US MOST RELIABLE  
PARTNERS IN  
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AND MARKETING  
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OF THE WORLD**



# HOTEL VITOSHA



## THE BEST IN BULGARIA FOR BUSINESS AND PLEASURE

Situated in one of Sofia's loveliest areas at the foothills of Vitosha Mountain, the 21 storie remarkable hotel is build on 30 000 sq. m. and is only 10 minutes away from the city center and 15 minutes from the airport.

## BANQUET & CONVENTION FACILITIES

Excellent possibilities for business meetings, seminars, receptions, exhibitions, fashion shows, etc.

Sport Club with heated Indoor Swimming Pool, Sauna, Solarium, Massage

## DINING & ENTERTAINMENTS:

5 restaurants with ITALIAN, FRENCH, JAPANESE, BULGARIAN CUISINES, 6 bars, Vienna Cafe, Business Club, Night Club and Casino

Bowling alleys and Tennis Courts

The hotel is fully air conditioned and offers 454 luxury rooms, 13 suits and 1 Presidential Suite with private bathrooms, Telephones, Colour Satellite TV, Radio, mini-bars, 24-hours Room Service and same-day Laundry & Valet service, Medical and Dental service, Conference facilities, a Shopping Arcade.

RANK XEROX Business center has full services available, Post Office and telex.

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All Major Credit Cards are accepted.

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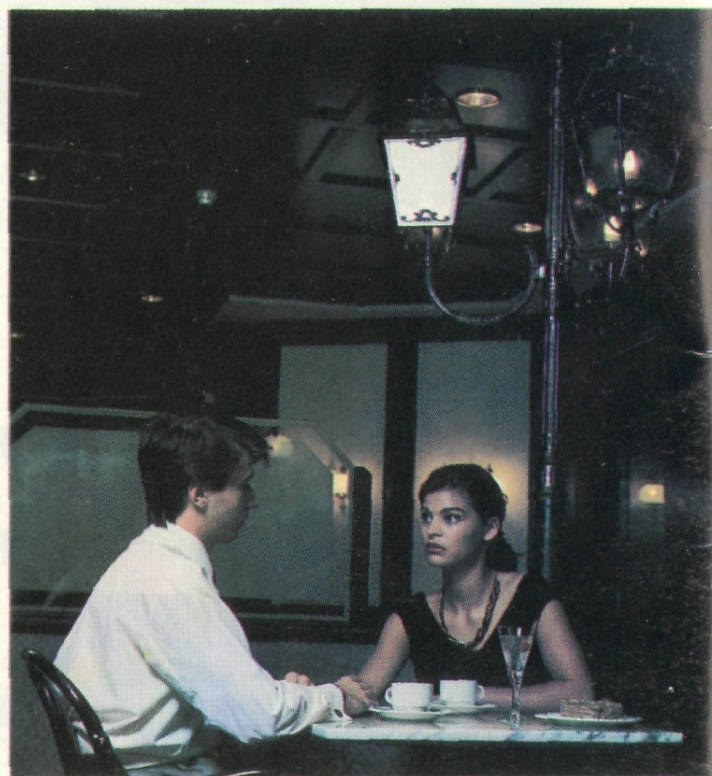
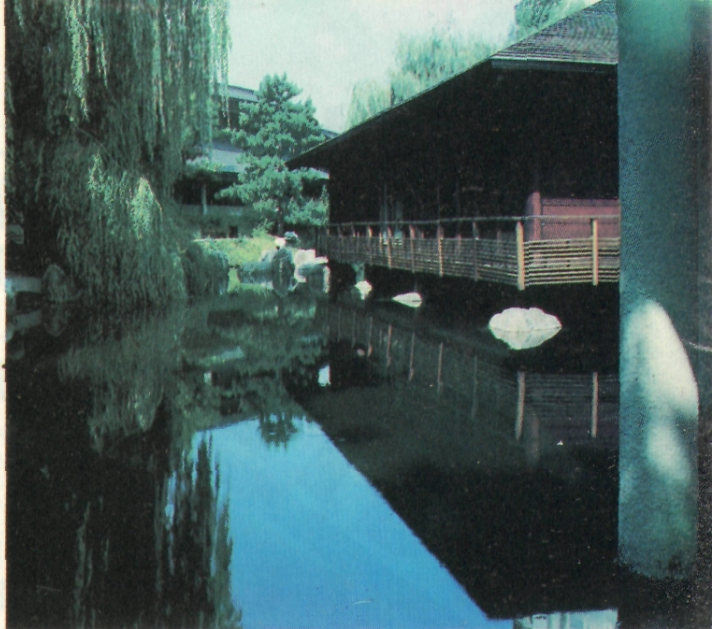
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THE BEST IN BULGARIA FOR BUSINESS AND PLEASURE



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∞ ★ ★  
**HOTEL VITOSHA**  
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▲ ▼ ▲